

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

APRIL 14, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 13, 2004 **RAPP CORNELIUS CHAIRS**, age 29, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **CHAIRS**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging Resisting and Obstruction of a Task Force Deputy of the United States Marshals Service in violation of Title 18 United States Code, section 111, was sentenced to 51 months' imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and was fined \$500.

At his plea, **CHAIRS** admitted that on August 13, 2003 he resisted and obstructed the Deputy when he tried to drive his vehicle away from the Deputy who was reaching into the vehicle **CHAIRS** was driving. The Deputy had approached **CHAIRS** after he observed what appeared to be a drug deal and was in the process of removing what appeared to be cocaine base (commonly referred to as "crack") that was in the lap of **CHAIRS**. As **CHAIRS** accelerated his vehicle, the Deputy was dragged for a short distance and the Deputy was forced to fire two shots into the vehicle before freeing himself from the vehicle. The Deputy was treated at an area hospital for shoulder injuries. **CHAIRS** was not injured in the incident.

The investigation was handled by the United States Marshal Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.